

Stated for:

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 4, 2009, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 230. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 111—Recognizing Israel's independence as a significant event in providing refuge and a national homeland for the Jewish people and congratulates Israel's people as they celebrate the 61st anniversary of Israel's independence.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, due to events in my congressional district, I was unable to vote today. If I were present, I would have voted "yea" to H. Res. 230, recognizing the historical significance of the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo and "yea" to H. Con. Res. 111.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I was not present for votes on Monday, May 4, 2009, due to health reasons. If I was present I would have voted: "yea" on rollcall 229, H. Res. 230—Recognizing the historical significance of the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo and "yea" on rollcall 230, H. Con. Res. 111—Recognizing the 61st anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1214

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to be removed as a cosponsor from H.R. 1214.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

NUCLEAR POWER VITAL TO ENERGY FUTURE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, the recently passed budget and the upcoming climate change legislation take a direct shot at the strained budgets of South Carolina families. Under an ill-advised cap-and-tax proposal, families will see their electricity bills, gas bills and grocery bills go up.

Meanwhile, South Carolina is the leader in the production of clean, viable and safe alternative nuclear energy. For over 30 years, South Carolina has benefited with over 50 percent of electrical generation by nuclear energy.

President Obama's own Secretary of Energy, Dr. Steven Chu, agrees that nuclear energy "is going to be an important part of our energy mix." Unfortunately, some in Washington still continue to ignore this proven technology.

I hope my colleagues in Congress will listen to Secretary Chu. In the meantime, South Carolina families and citi-

zens throughout our Nation cannot afford a spike in their utility bills, their gas bills or their food budgets.

I am grateful that Santee Cooper and SCE&G are proceeding with two new reactors at Jenkinsville, South Carolina, which will produce clean energy.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, 50 million Americans have no health insurance. Another 50 million are underinsured.

And instead of creating a program that would provide insurance for all Americans, the great debate in Washington is how we can continue to keep the insurance companies in business. Think about it.

America spends \$2.4 trillion a year on health care, but 1 out of every \$3, \$800 billion a year, goes for the activities of the for-profit health insurance companies, corporate profits, stock options, executive salaries, advertising, marketing costs and paperwork.

Now, isn't it time that we took away the profit-making incentive in health care and created a system where there is health care for all, where everything is covered? We have the money to do it.

The question is whether we are going to have health care for the people or whether we are going to have insurance care using our money and our tax dollars to keep the insurance companies in their profits.

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

(Mrs. BACHMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Res. 391, which recognizes May as National Foster Care Month.

Today there are over 500,000 children in foster care across the United States, and my husband and I were privileged to have raised 23 foster children in our home.

Madam Speaker, as a foster mother, I know too well the challenges. And I am dedicated to changing public policy and to raising awareness related to the very special and individual needs of foster children, so that families who support these children receive the resources they need to help these really great kids receive adequate support to help them to reach adulthood in a positive way.

SAFE ENERGY

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, since the Nation has no official energy policy, we continue to discuss what shall we do about energy for the future.

The cynics and the critics don't want us to use fossil fuels such as clean coal or oil. They don't want us drilling for even natural gas.

We can never build enough of those gangly windmill eyesores to make much of a difference. Solar energy technology is still lagging behind in development, and we are learning that the corn-based ethanol that was to save us all is too much of a pollutant and a poor use of our own land.

So what are we to do? Are we going to freeze in the dark or bake in the global heat, depending on whether one believes global warming is fact or fiction?

Today I visited the North Anna nuclear power plant in Virginia. I was impressed with their pride for safety, security and competence. This plant, along with 63 others, safely produces 20 percent of our Nation's electricity. But France gets 80 percent of its electricity from nuclear power.

So we should defy the cynics and the critics and produce energy from all safe sources, including actively pursuing more clean nuclear power, or we will eventually be left behind in the darkness of the winter night.

And that's just the way it is.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

WILDERNESS BATTLE—MAY 5-7, 1864

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, May 5, tomorrow, 145 years ago this day, May 5, 1864, 90 miles from where we are today and tonight, Madam Speaker, there were 160,000 troops assembled on one battlefield. Over 100,000 from the North and about 25,000 from the South, and they participated in the 3-day battle called the Battle of the Wilderness.

Madam Speaker, this battle was so intense that the wilderness itself, the woods, caught on fire during the battle and many from both sides burned to death. Casualties were about 30,000.

And if you take the number of men and women we have in Afghanistan and Iraq tonight, 160,000 is approximately the number that we have in those two theatres of war. They were assembled on one battlefield in the great Civil War.

Madam Speaker, during the Civil War there were over 600,000 killed. If we took that and brought it into today's numbers, that would be about 5 million killed.